

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00259 040931Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0237

S E C R E T DOHA 0259

EXDIS

FOR NEA-SOBER AND NEA/ARP-DICKMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), PFOR QA US

SUBJECT : QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER QUERY ON SECRETARY'S

POSSIBLE VISIT

REFS: DOHA 249 AND 240

1. ON EVENING MARCH 3 QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI, WHO IS ALSO ACTING RULER DURING AMIR'S ABSENCE AT OPEC SUMMIT, ASKED ME FOR INFORMATION ON SECRETARY'S ITINERARY. I PROVIDED WHAT INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS. SUHAYM EMPHASIZED THAT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE ON TIMING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO QATAR. I AGAIN REMINDED SUHAYM THAT VISIT HERE BY NO RPT NO MEANS A CERTAINTY, AND IF IT DID EVENTUATE, TIMING WOULD DEPEND ON SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES IN ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES AND ISRAEL. SUHAYM REITERATED THAT IT ESSENTIAL THAT I KEEP HIM CLOSELY INFORMED ON SECRETARY'S MOVEMENTS AND I SAID WE WOULD DO THE BEST WE COULD.

2. COMMENT: SUHAYM'S QUERY ILLUSTRATIVE OF PROBLEMS WE FACING HERE RE SECRETARY'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO GULF, I.E. ASSUMPTION THAT VISIT IS ON AND NEED TO BE CLOSELY INFORMED ON SECRETARY'S MOVEMENTS (REFTELS). SUHAYM'S OWN PROBLEM IS KEEPING AMIR INFORMED ON SUBJECT. AS DEPT AWARE, AMIR IS IN ALGIERS FOR

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OPEC SUMMIT. HE OFTEN REMAINS ABROAD AFTER SUCH CONCLAVES FOR

PERIOD OF REST OR MEDICAL TREATMENT, USUALLY IN PARIS, AND HE
HAS UNDOUBTEDLY TASKED SUHAYM RE POSSIBLE TIMING OF SECRETARY'S
VISIT SO THAT HE CAN MAKE HIS OWN TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.
THIS ADDITIONAL REASON WHY WE REQUIRED SPECIAL COMMO ARRANGEMENTS
TO KEEP US FULLY ABREAST OF SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750074-1199
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750386/aaaacymz.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 DOHA 249, 75 AND 240
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : QATAR FOREIGN MINISTER QUERY ON SECRETARY'S POSSIBLE VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, QA, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006